Daniel P. Vrakas
County Executive



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Date:** Tuesday, July 10, 2007

Contact: Shari Rather – Foster Care Coordinator, (262) 548-7267

## **Foster Families Recognized at Picnic Celebration**

Waukesha, WIS. – The Waukesha County Department of Health and Human Services held an appreciation event for 191 foster parents and children at Fox Brook Park in Brookfield on June 27 from 3:30 – 8:30 p.m.

The event, called "Old Fashioned Picnic", was sponsored by Jack Safro Motorcars and provided foster parents and the children under their care with an opportunity to relax, swim, eat a picnic dinner, build sand castles, try paddle boats, play sand volleyball, and participate in other organized activities.

"Foster parents are truly special people that help fill a critical gap in our community by providing the guidance, mentoring and love that children need while family structures are repaired so that they can be reunited with their parents," said County Executive Dan Vrakas. "I am truly thankful for the important work that foster parents do, and I commend them for their commitment to our foster children."

- more -

## "Foster Families Recognized at Picnic Celebration," continued...

Jack Safro Motorcars made a significant cash donation to cover expenses associated with this fun afternoon in the park. The company received a Plaque of Appreciation for its commitment to and support of the county's foster care program.

"Jack Safro Motorcars has a long history of serving customers at its dealerships throughout southeastern Wisconsin," said Jim Tessmer, vice president of the organization. "We remain committed to this area and find it important to give back to our community in ways that enable us to make a real difference. Our company is proud to support foster families and sincerely hopes that everyone had a wonderful afternoon in the park."

Foster care provides children with a temporary home and family when their parents are unable to meet their needs and keep them safe. It gives these children a stable, secure and nurturing environment while their birth parents work on improving their situations so that their families can be reunited.

Currently, Waukesha County has 103 foster families and is always looking for more committed people to help out in this capacity. If you are interested or would like more information about it, please call the Foster Care Program at (262) 548-7212 or visit the Department of Health & Human Services on-line through the county's website at <a href="https://www.waukeshacounty.gov">www.waukeshacounty.gov</a>.

###